

Cross-Border Perfins Go Both Ways

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Many perfin types are found in the stamps of more than one country. I don't mean the the same parent company having machines in two or more countries, but rather that a machine in one country being used to perforate stamps from tow or more countries. This was often done to frank a self-addressed stamped envelope sent to another country, hopefully prompting a reply. Also, in some cases they were used in revenue stamps where some tax had to be paid in a foreign country. Just check the Canadian catalog to see how many of these users have a U. S. address.

One company, however, had the cross-border perfinned postage work



both directions. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company had both a US machine (US pattern M164) located in New York, and a Canadian one



(Canadian pattern M16; L has serif) located in Ottawa. (Note that the US

pattern is listed as #M15 in the Canadian catalog.) Both patterns are known on Canadian postal and revenue stamps. The Canadian pattern is currently not listed as existing on US stamps, but this has been reported to the new US catalog editor.

Are there other both-way patterns? Any help identifying them is welcome.